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ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: 8 AUGUST 1974

SUBJECT: NEW CANADIAN CABINET

THE NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED BY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU CLOSELY RESEMBLES ITS PREDECESSOR. THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE WAS THE APPOINTMENT OF ALLAN MACEACHEN TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. MITCHELL SHARP, HIS PREDECESSOR, WILL MOVE OVER TO MACEACHEN'S OLD JOB AS PRESIDENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT LEADER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. MACEACHEN, A VETERAN LIBERAL POLITICIAN, HAS HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BUT HE DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE SKILL AND TACT AS THE LIBERALS' FLOOR LEADER DURING THE MINORITY PERIOD.

THE CHANGE DOES NOT PRESAGE ANY BASIC SHIFT IN CANADIAN POLICY TOWARD THE US. SHARP HAD INDICATED EARLIER THAT HE WANTED A NEW JOB. MOREOVER, HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO EXERT

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A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN CABINET DELIBERATIONS. OTHER KEY PORTFOLIOS AFFECTING CANADIAN-US RELATIONS--ENERGY, FINANCE, AND TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE--CONTINUE TO BE HELD BY THE INCUMBENTS.

THE REMAINDER OF THE CABINET APPOINTEES CONSIST LARGELY OF OLD FACES. THE MOST INTERESTING CHANGES, DOMESTICALLY, WERE THE APPOINTMENTS OF TWO PROMINENT FRENCH CANADIANS AS MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE TREASURY BOARD.

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